AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A hermetic compressor comprising:

an electric driving element;

a compressing element driven by the electric driving element; and

a closed vessel for ~~storing~~ housing the electric driving element and the compressing element,

wherein the compressing element comprises:

a shaft having an eccentric shaft portion, a spindle portion provided at a bottom surface of the eccentric shaft portion, and an auxiliary shaft portion ~~and a spindle portion~~ provided ~~coaxially at the~~ at a top ~~and the bottom with~~ surface of the eccentric shaft portion ~~between~~ so as to be coaxial with the spindle portion;

a cylinder block provided with a compression chamber;

a main bearing provided on the cylinder block ~~and supporting~~ so as to support the spindle portion;

an auxiliary bearing provided on the cylinder block ~~and supporting~~ so as to support the auxiliary shaft portion;

a piston reciprocating in the compression chamber; and

a connecting ~~means~~ member for connecting ~~between~~ the piston and the eccentric shaft portion;

wherein a first balance weight is provided on the auxiliary shaft portion at a ~~side~~ top end of the eccentric shaft portion ~~of the auxiliary shaft portion~~;

wherein a second balance weight is provided on the spindle portion at a ~~side~~ bottom end of the eccentric shaft portion ~~of the spindle portion~~; and

wherein the first balance weight ~~being constituted with~~ is coupled to the auxiliary shaft portion ~~and~~ by a separate member.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 1, wherein the separate member is a screw, and wherein the auxiliary shaft portion and the first balance weight are coupled to each other by the screw so as to be fixed ~~by means of a screw to each other~~.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 1, wherein the separate member is a rivet, and wherein the auxiliary shaft portion and the first balance weight are coupled to each other by the rivet so as to be fixed ~~by means of a rivet to each other~~.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 1, wherein the ~~side end of eccentric shaft portion of the spindle~~ auxiliary shaft portion and the first balance weight are provided with ~~fitting portion to be positioned by fitting of~~ a concave part and a convex part, respectively, such that the concave part and the convex part fit together so as to position the first balance weight.

5-6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 1, wherein the main bearing is ~~constituted~~ coupled with ~~a member separate from~~ the cylinder block by a fastening member.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(New)** A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 2, wherein the auxiliary shaft portion includes a sliding portion within the auxiliary bearing, and a hole through which the screw passes, wherein a distance between a top end of the sliding portion and a top end of the auxiliary shaft portion is no less than 1/2 of a diameter of the hole, and wherein a distance between a bottom end of the sliding portion and a bottom end of the auxiliary shaft portion is no less than 1/2 of the diameter of the hole.

10. **(New)** A hermetic compressor as defined in Claim 3, wherein the auxiliary shaft portion includes a sliding portion within the auxiliary bearing, and a hole through which the rivet passes, wherein a distance between a top end of the sliding portion and a top end of the auxiliary shaft portion is no less than 1/2 of a diameter of the hole, and wherein a distance between a bottom end of the sliding portion and a bottom end of the auxiliary shaft portion is no less than 1/2 of the diameter of the hole.